

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCCT-01 /093 W

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R 252205Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3660

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ICFTU CO

SUBJ: LABOR LEADER JOSE MERCADO STILL MISSING

REF: USEC BRUSSELS 1860

1. THE FEBRUARY 15 DISAPPEARANCE AND PROBABLE KIDNAPPING OF JOSE MERCADO, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF COLOMBIAN WORKERS (CTC), REMAINS UNSOLVED. A TERRORIST GROUP CALLED M-19, CONNECTED WITH LEFTIST EXTREMIST ELEMENTS OF THE SMALL POLITICAL PARTY NATIONAL POPULAR ALLIANCE (ANAPO), HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR THE KIDNAPPING. M-19 SENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF MERCADO, SHOWING HIM UNDER GUARD BY THE GROUP'S MILITANTS, TO NEWSPAPERS LAST WEEK AND MORE RECENTLY SUPPLIED LETTERS SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY MERCADO AND HIS NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY (DAS) HAS NOT YET DETERMINED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTOS AND LETTERS. M-19, ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, IS DEMANDING 10 MILLION PESOS FOR THE RELEASE OF MERCADO.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, DAS HAS RECEIVED SCORES OF PHONE CALLS DIRECTING AUTHORITIES TO LOCATIONS WHERE MERCADO'S BODY COULD BE FOUND BUT THE CALLS HAVE BEEN HOAXES. DAS SAYS IT BELIEVES MERCADO IS STILL ALIVE.

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3. THE INCIDENT HAS CAUSED THE COUNTRY'S TWO DEMOCRATIC LABOR GROUPS, THE CTC AND THE UNION OF COLOMBIAN WORKERS (UTC), TO COME TOGETHER, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, TO ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT. THE STATEMENT WARNS OF LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMISM AND CRITICIZES COLOMBIA'S LEADERS FOR THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN THE FATE OF MERCADO. IN ADDITION, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PORT WORKERS HAS PLANNED A WORK STOPPAGE FOR FEBRUARY 27 IF MERCADO IS NOT FOUND SAFE AND SOUND BY THEN.

4. BOGOTA PRESS ON FEBRUARY 25 REPORTED THAT THE ICFTU IN BRUSSELS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING ON PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO ORDER AN URGENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE MERCADO CASE AND BLAMING THE KIDNAPPING ON RIGHTIST TERRORISTS.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: KIDNAPPING, ALLEGATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: ELAB, PINS, CO, ICFTU, (MERCADO, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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